

REC'D 24 JAN 2005

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PCT / IB 05 / 00131

24 JAN 2005

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TRAITÉ DE COOPÉRATION EN MATIÈRE DE BREVETS (PCT)**

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International Application No. }
Demande internationale n° } PCT/IB 04 / 00227

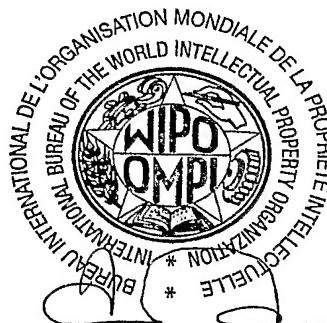
International Filing Date }
Date du dépôt international } 30 JANUARY 2004
(30.01.04)

Geneva/Genève, 07 FEBRUARY 2005
(07.02.05)

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Chef de la section "office récepteur du PCT"

PCT**REQUEST**

The undersigned requests that the present international application be processed according to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

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PCT / IB 04 / 00227
 International Application No.

30 JANUARY 2004
 International Filing Date

30.01.04

INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF WIPO

Name of receiving Office and "PCT International Application"

Applicant's or agent's file reference
(if desired) (12 characters maximum) **BR76035/CR/PLC/ml**

Box No. I	TITLE OF INVENTION
COATING COMPOSITION HAVING SURFACE DEPOLUTING PROPERTIES	

Box No. II	APPLICANT
<input type="checkbox"/> This person is also inventor	

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)	
---	--

MILLENNIUM CHEMICALS Grimsby North East LINCOLNSHIRE, Lincolnshire DN 41 8DP UNITED KINGDOM	
---	--

State (that is, country) of nationality:	State (that is, country) of residence:
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This person is applicant for the purposes of: <input type="checkbox"/> all designated States	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> all designated States except the United States of America	<input type="checkbox"/> the United States of America only	<input type="checkbox"/> the States indicated in the Supplemental Box
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Box No. III	FURTHER APPLICANT(S) AND/OR (FURTHER) INVENTOR(S)
--------------------	--

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Graham GOODWIN 76 Blundell Avenue CLEETHORPES N.E. Lincolnshire DN35 7PT UNITED KINGDOM	
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State (that is, country) of nationality:	State (that is, country) of residence:
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further applicants and/or (further) inventors are indicated on a continuation sheet.			
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Box No. IV	AGENT OR COMMON REPRESENTATIVE; OR ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE
-------------------	--

The person identified below is hereby/has been appointed to act on behalf of the applicant(s) before the competent International Authorities as:	
--	--

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country.)	
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Pascale LE COUPANEC NONY & PARTNERS 3 rue de Penthièvre 75008 PARIS - FRANCE	
---	--

<input type="checkbox"/> Address for correspondence: Mark this check-box where no agent or common representative is/has been appointed and the space above is used instead to indicate a special address to which correspondence should be sent.	
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Sheet No. ...2...

PCT/IB 04 / 00227

Continuation of Box No. III		FURTHER APPLICANT(S) AND/OR (FURTHER) INVENTOR(S)			
<i>If none of the following sub-boxes is used, this sheet should not be included in the request.</i>					
<p>Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)</p> <p>John STRATTON 59 Seaford Road CLEETHORPES N.E. Lincolnshire DN35 ONE UNITED KINGDOM</p>				<p>This person is:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> applicant only</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> applicant and inventor</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)</p>	
				Applicant's registration No. with the Office	
<p>State (that is, country) of nationality: UK & GB</p>		<p>State (that is, country) of residence: UK & GB</p>			
<p>This person is applicant for the purposes of:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> all designated States</p>		<p><input type="checkbox"/> all designated States except the United States of America</p>		<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the United States of America only</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the States indicated in the Supplemental Box</p>	
<p>Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)</p> <p>Robert McINTYRE 14 Blue Stone Rise Highfields Louth LN11 9XZ UNITED KINGDOM</p>				<p>This person is:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> applicant only</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> applicant and inventor</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)</p>	
				Applicant's registration No. with the Office	
<p>State (that is, country) of nationality: UK & GB</p>		<p>State (that is, country) of residence: UK & GB</p>			
<p>This person is applicant for the purposes of:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> all designated States</p>		<p><input type="checkbox"/> all designated States except the United States of America</p>		<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the United States of America only</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the States indicated in the Supplemental Box</p>	
<p>Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)</p>				<p>This person is:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> applicant only</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> applicant and inventor</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)</p>	
				Applicant's registration No. with the Office	
<p>State (that is, country) of nationality:</p>		<p>State (that is, country) of residence:</p>			
<p>This person is applicant for the purposes of:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> all designated States</p>		<p><input type="checkbox"/> all designated States except the United States of America</p>		<p><input type="checkbox"/> the United States of America only</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the States indicated in the Supplemental Box</p>	
<p>Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)</p>				<p>This person is:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> applicant only</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> applicant and inventor</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)</p>	
				Applicant's registration No. with the Office	
<p>State (that is, country) of nationality:</p>		<p>State (that is, country) of residence:</p>			
<p>This person is applicant for the purposes of:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> all designated States</p>		<p><input type="checkbox"/> all designated States except the United States of America</p>		<p><input type="checkbox"/> the United States of America only</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the States indicated in the Supplemental Box</p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Further applicants and/or (further) inventors are indicated on another continuation sheet.</p>					

Sheet No. ... 3 ...

PCT/IR 04 / 00227

Box No. V DESIGNATIONS

The filing of this request constitutes under Rule 4.9(a), the designation of all Contracting States bound by the PCT on the international filing date, for the grant of every kind of protection available and, where applicable, for the grant of both regional and national patents. However,

- DE Germany is not designated for any kind of national protection
- KR Republic of Korea is not designated for any kind of national protection
- RU Russian Federation is not designated for any kind of national protection

(The check-boxes above may be used to exclude (irrevocably) the designations concerned in order to avoid the ceasing of the effect, under the national law, of an earlier national application from which priority is claimed. See the Notes to Box No. V as to the consequences of such national law provisions in these and certain other States.)

Box No. VI PRIORITY CLAIM

The priority of the following earlier application(s) is hereby claimed:

Filing date of earlier application (day/month/year)	Number of earlier application	Where earlier application is:		
		national application: country or Member of WTO	regional application.* regional Office	international application: receiving Office
item (1)				
item (2)				
item (3)				

Further priority claims are indicated in the Supplemental Box.

The receiving Office is requested to prepare and transmit to the International Bureau a certified copy of the earlier application(s) (only if the earlier application was filed with the Office which for the purposes of this international application is the receiving Office) identified above as:

- all items
- item (1)
- item (2)
- item (3)
- other, see Supplemental Box

* Where the earlier application is an ARIPO application, indicate at least one country party to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property or one Member of the World Trade Organization for which that earlier application was filed (Rule 4.10(b)(ii)).

Box No. VII INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

Choice of International Searching Authority (ISA) (if two or more International Searching Authorities are competent to carry out the international search, indicate the Authority chosen; the two-letter code may be used):

ISA /

Request to use results of earlier search; reference to that search (if an earlier search has been carried out by or requested from the International Searching Authority):

Date (day/month/year)

Number

Country (or regional Office)

Box No. VIII DECLARATIONS

The following declarations are contained in Boxes Nos. VIII (i) to (v) (mark the applicable check-boxes below and indicate in the right column the number of each type of declaration):

Number of declarations

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII (i) | Declaration as to the identity of the inventor | : |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII (ii) | Declaration as to the applicant's entitlement, as at the international filing date, to apply for and be granted a patent | : |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII (iii) | Declaration as to the applicant's entitlement, as at the international filing date, to claim the priority of the earlier application | : |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII (iv) | Declaration of inventorship (only for the purposes of the designation of the United States of America) | : |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII (v) | Declaration as to non-prejudicial disclosures or exceptions to lack of novelty | : |

Sheet No. 4

PCT/IR 04 / 00227

Box No. IX CHECK LIST; LANGUAGE OF FILING		Number of items	
This international application contains:			This international application is accompanied by the following item(s) (mark the applicable check-boxes below and indicate in right column the number of each item):
(a) in paper form, the following number of sheets:			
request (including declaration sheets)	: 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fee calculation sheet	: 1
description (excluding sequence listing and/or tables related thereto)	: 13	<input type="checkbox"/> original separate power of attorney	:
claims	: 2	<input type="checkbox"/> original general power of attorney	:
abstract	: 1	<input type="checkbox"/> copy of general power of attorney; reference number, if any:	:
drawings	: 1	<input type="checkbox"/> statement explaining lack of signature	:
Sub-total number of sheets	: 20	<input type="checkbox"/> priority document(s) identified in Box No. VI as item(s):	:
sequence listing	: 20	<input type="checkbox"/> translation of international application into (language):	:
tables related thereto	: 20	<input type="checkbox"/> separate indications concerning deposited microorganism or other biological material	:
(for both, actual number of sheets if filed in paper form, whether or not also filed in computer readable form; see (c) below)	: 20	<input type="checkbox"/> sequence listing in computer readable form (indicate type and number of carriers)	:
Total number of sheets	: 20	(i) <input type="checkbox"/> copy submitted for the purposes of international search under Rule 13ter only (and not as part of the international application)	:
(b) <input type="checkbox"/> only in computer readable form (Section 801(a)(i))		(ii) <input type="checkbox"/> (only where check-box (b)(i) or (c)(i) is marked in left column) additional copies including, where applicable, the copy for the purposes of international search under Rule 13ter	:
(i) <input type="checkbox"/> sequence listing		(iii) <input type="checkbox"/> together with relevant statement as to the identity of the copy or copies with the sequence listing mentioned in left column	:
(ii) <input type="checkbox"/> tables related thereto		10. <input type="checkbox"/> tables in computer readable form related to sequence listing (indicate type and number of carriers)	:
(c) <input type="checkbox"/> also in computer readable form (Section 801(a)(ii))		(i) <input type="checkbox"/> copy submitted for the purposes of international search under Section 802(b-quarter) only (and not as part of the international application)	:
(i) <input type="checkbox"/> sequence listing		(ii) <input type="checkbox"/> (only where check-box (b)(ii) or (c)(ii) is marked in left column) additional copies including, where applicable, the copy for the purposes of international search under Section 802(b-quarter)	:
(ii) <input type="checkbox"/> tables related thereto		(iii) <input type="checkbox"/> together with relevant statement as to the identity of the copy or copies with the tables mentioned in left column	:
Type and number of carriers (diskette, CD-ROM, CD-R or other) on which are contained the		11. <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify):	:
<input type="checkbox"/> sequence listing:			
<input type="checkbox"/> tables related thereto:			
(additional copies to be indicated under items 9(ii) and/or 10(ii), in right column)			

Figure of the drawings which should accompany the abstract:	Language of filing of the international application: ENGLISH
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Box No. X SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, AGENT OR COMMON REPRESENTATIVE Next to each signature, indicate the name of the person signing and the capacity in which the person signs (if such capacity is not obvious from reading the request).	
Pascale LE COUPANEC NONY & PARTNERS 	

For receiving Office use only	
1. Date of actual receipt of the purported international application:	30 JANUARY 2004 (30.01.04)
3. Corrected date of actual receipt due to later but timely received papers or drawings completing the purported international application:	
4. Date of timely receipt of the required corrections under PCT Article 11(2):	
5. International Searching Authority (if two or more are competent): ISA /	6. <input type="checkbox"/> Transmittal of search copy delayed until search fee is paid

2. Drawings:
- received:
 not received:

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Date of receipt of the record copy by the International Bureau:	

Coating composition having surface depolluting properties

The present invention relates to a coating composition useful for formation of an inorganic layer of paint and/or soil cleaning, depolluting and/or antifouling coating on the surface of a substrate.

5 Conventional methods for making the surface of materials soil cleaning comprises treating the surface to confer the ability to remove stains or soils deposited on the surface. In other methods, excellent oxidative degradation activity of a photocatalyst fixed onto the surface is utilized to degrade organic matter or stains or soils deposited on the surface and also any gaseous pollution which comes into contact with said surface.

10 In particular, heterogeneous photocatalysis has efficiently been used for oxidizing and thereby removing unwanted compounds from fluids, including water, and air. Thus, UV-illuminated catalyst, such as titanium dioxide, absorbs UV light, which produces electrons and holes that migrate to the surface of the catalyst. At the surface, the electrons reduce adsorbed oxygen, while the holes oxidize organic compounds or adsorbed
15 water molecules.

However, satisfactory depolluting properties may not be provided with only such a single photocatalytic coating composition for a long lifetime i.e. over 5 years.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a coating composition which, independently of environment, such as indoor or outdoor environment,
20 can semi-permanently and in a single coating exhibits excellent surface depolluting properties, particularly excellent soil cleaning activity against greasy stains or soils and, in addition, is resistant to abrasion.

According to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a coating composition for the formation of an inorganic layer on the surface of a substrate, said
25 coating composition comprising at least

- an efficient amount of photocatalytic titanium dioxide particles,
- an opacifying agent,
- particles of an inorganic binder,
- an organic binder, and
- a solvent,

30 wherein said photocatalytic titanium dioxide particles and organic binder are present in a weight ratio of photocatalytic titanium dioxide/organic binder ranging from 0.1 to 6.

According to a specific embodiment, the said composition is a silicate emulsion paint.

According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a process for providing a depolluting and/or soil cleaning coating on a substrate, comprising 5 the steps of:

- applying a coating composition according to the invention onto a surface of the substrate to form a coating, and
- fixing the coating to obtain an inorganic layer on the surface of the substrate.

10

Inorganic binder:

It includes at least an amorphous metal oxide, selected from the group consisting of alkali silicates, alkali aluminates, alkali zirconates, alkali borates, alkali phosphates alkali phosphonates and their mixtures.

15 Specific examples of preferred inorganic binder include alkali silicates represented by formula



wherein M represents an alkali metal, and n being 2.0-3.0.

According to the present invention, the inorganic binder includes at least one 20 metal selected from the group consisting of rubidium, potassium, sodium, and lithium. Preferred alkali metal silicates include, for example, potassium silicate, sodium silicate, and/or lithium silicate.

Combined use of a plurality of the alkali metal silicates can improve the water resistance, alkali resistance and acid resistance of the inorganic layer. Alkali metal silicates 25 commercially available in the form of an aqueous solution are also soluble.

The use of an alkali metal silicate can form an inorganic layer having good adhesion even at a low temperature of about 5 °C to the surface of the substrate.

According to a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the concentration of the inorganic binder and in particular the alkali metal silicate in the 30 coating composition is preferably 0.5 to 35% by weight, in particular 1 to 30% by weight, more particularly 2 to 25% by weight on a solid basis. Such a concentration is advantageous for obtaining a surface having good soil cleaning and good strength.

The alkali silicate in the inorganic binder system can be cured in different ways. The desired curing may be brought about by atmospheric carbon dioxide.

Also, the coating may be hardened by elimination of water. Advantageously, the so-obtained coating forms an inorganic structure which has enough pores to confer a sufficiently high water vapour permeation.

Organic binder:

The organic binder may be chosen among copolymers of styrene/butadiene, and polymers and copolymers of esters of acrylic acid and in particular copolymers of polyvinylacrylic and styrene/acrylic esters.

In the present invention, styrene acrylic copolymer includes copolymers of styrene/acrylic esters thereof.

The inventors have unexpectedly discovered that such a compound was particularly advantageous to obtain a photocatalytically active coating having a prolonged lifetime.

Such effect was in particular noticed where this compound is a styrene/acrylic copolymer and more particularly used in a weight ratio of photocatalytic TiO₂ particles/organic binder and in particular styrene/acrylic copolymer ranging from 0.3 to 4.5, in particular from 0.5 to 3.6, more particularly from 1 to 2.5.

In particular, a styrene acrylic emulsion such as ACRONAL 290D from BASF GmbH may be used.

Photocatalytic particles:

In the present invention, the term "photocatalytic particles" as used herein refers to particles based on a material which, when exposed to light (excitation light) having higher energy (i.e., shorter wavelength) than the energy gap between the conduction band and the valence band of the crystal, can cause excitation (photoexcitation) of electrons in the valence band to produce a conduction band electron and leaving a hole in the valence band.

More particularly photocatalytic titanium dioxide particles are chosen from the group consisting of titanium oxide which may be of any type, for example anatase or rutile

although anatase containing titanium oxide is especially preferred for its higher photoactivity.

For the titanium dioxide particles of the coating, the nature of the particle is, preferably, predominantly the anatase crystalline form. "Predominantly" means that the level of anatase in the titanium dioxide particles of the coating is greater than 50% by mass. The particles of the coating preferably exhibit a level of anatase of greater than 80%.

The degree of crystallization and the nature of the crystalline phase are measured by X-ray diffraction.

The crystalline titanium dioxide particles incorporated in the coating exhibit a mean size of between 5 and 80 nm, preferably of between 5 and 50 nm, more preferably still of between 10 and 40 nm. The diameters may be measured by transmission electron microscopy (TEM) and also XRD.

The preferred photocatalyst particles have a high surface area per gram, e.g., higher than 30 m²/g, preferably above 50 m²/g and most preferably greater than about 100 m²/g as measured by the BET method.

Particularly convenient for the invention, are photocatalytic titanium dioxide particles sold under the name PC 105 by Millennium Inorganic Chemicals Ltd.

The present invention may also involve a coated titanium dioxide pigment. This may include titanium dioxide particles, a first deposit of a phosphate compound contiguous with the base TiO₂ particles, optionally a deposit of a dense silica compound contiguous with the phosphate deposit, optionally a second deposit of a phosphate compound contiguous with the dense silica compound, and optionally a deposit of an alumina compound contiguous with the second phosphate deposit.

In alternate embodiment, the titanium dioxide particles can be coated with a zirconia compound instead of the silica compound.

Preferably, the phosphate compound is formed from a water soluble phosphate compound, such as for example, tetrapotassium pyrophosphate, sodium polyphosphate, tetrasodium pyrophosphate (TetronTM), sodium tripolyphosphate, potassium tripolyphosphate, sodium hexametaphosphate (CalgonTM), phosphoric acid, and the like. Most preferably, the water soluble phosphate compound is sodium hexametaphosphate. The weight percent of the phosphate compound can vary depending on the layer deposited on the titanium dioxide base. It is not necessary that the phosphate compound coats each

titanium dioxide particle, but only that some phosphate be deposited on the particle. Preferably, the phosphate compound in the first layer is deposited in an amount of from about 0.05% to about 1.0%, more preferably from about 0.05% to about 0.75% and most preferably, from about 0.05% to about 0.5% based upon the weight of titanium dioxide base.

5

10

The weight percent silica content can vary depending on the layer deposited on the first phosphate layer. Silica compounds suitable for use in the present invention include water soluble alkali metal silicates. Preferred alkali metal silicates include sodium silicate, potassium silicate and the like. Most preferably, the silica compound is sodium silicate. Preferably, the silica compound is deposited in an amount of from about 0.5% to about 5.0% by weight of silica based on the total weight of the titanium dioxide base.

15

Zirconia compounds suitable for use in the present invention include the acidic salts of zirconia such as zirconium oxychloride, zirconyl sulphate and the like. Most preferably, the zirconia compound is zirconium oxychloride or zirconyl sulphate. Preferably, the zirconia compound is deposited in an amount of from about 0.1% to about 5.0% by weight of zirconia based on the total weight of the titanium dioxide base.

20

The particles having a photocatalytic activity are present in an amount of 0.5 to 20%, preferably 1 to 15%, and most preferably 3 to 12% by weight of total weight of the composition.

25

In one embodiment of the invention, the combination of small (1-8 nm) photocatalytic particles with larger non-photocatalytic particles (approximately 250-350 nm), and more particularly non photocatalytic TiO₂ particles make a useful self-cleaning paint composition.

30

The photocatalytic titanium oxide particles may be introduced in the composition as a sol prepared by dispersion in a dispersant, as a water- or solvent-containing paste, or as a powder. Preferred examples of the dispersant used to prepare a sol include water, alcohols such as methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, n-butanol and isobutanol, and ketones such as methyl ethyl ketone and methyl isobutyl ketone.

35

The composition according to the present invention includes at least a solvent.

Examples of solvents usable herein include water, an organic solvent, and a mixed solvent composed of water and an organic solvent. Water, an alcohol, or a mixed solvent composed of water and an alcohol is particularly preferred.

Addition of water as the solvent is often preferred.

5

Opacifying agents

According to the invention, the opacifying agent includes any organic or inorganic compound able to provide hiding power to the coating. It includes pigments, colorants and/or fillers as listed hereafter. More preferably, it includes at least one 10 inorganic compound like titanium dioxide.

Such titanium dioxide pigments which are not photoactive are disclosed in US 6 342 099 (Millennium Inorganic Chemicals Inc.).

In particular, the titanium dioxide pigment may be the particles of Tiona 595 sold by Millennium Inorganic Chemicals Ltd.

15 If necessary, various other compounds may be added to the composition of the invention, provided such an addition does not compromise the shelf life, UV durability or non-staining properties of the resulting coating.

20 Examples of such additional compounds include filler(s) like quartz, calcite, clay, talc, barite and/or Na-Al-silicate; pigments like TiO₂, lithopone and other inorganic pigments; dispersants like polyphosphates, polyacrylates, phosphonates, naphthene and lignin sulfonates; wetting agents like anionic, cationic, amphoteric and non-ionic surfactants; defoamers like silicon emulsions, hydrocarbons, long-chain alcohols, ...; stabilizers like mostly cationic compounds; coalescing agents like alkali-stable esters, glycols, hydrocarbons; rheological additives like cellulose derivatives 25 (carboxymethylcellulose CMC, hydroxyethylcellulose HEC), xanthane gum, polyurethane, polyacrylate, modified starch, bentone and other lamellar silicates; water repellents like alkyl siliconates, siloxanes, wax emulsion, fatty acid Li salts and conventional fungicide or biocide.

30 Of course, none of the additives should be saponifiable or otherwise unstable to the alkalinity of the finished coating (pH values about 11.5).

The present invention also provides a process for the production of a photocatalytically active coated substrate which comprises depositing a composition coating on a material by contacting a surface of the material with said composition.

5 The composition of the present invention may be applied onto the surface of the material by any suitable method, and examples of suitable methods include spray coating, dip coating, flow coating, spin coating, roll coating, brush coating, and sponge coating.

10 The composition after the application onto the surface of the substrate is then dried or cured to form a thin film. The term "dried or cured" used herein means that the binders contained in the composition, according to the present invention, are converted to a film. Therefore, drying may be performed by air drying.

15 The composition according to the present invention may be applied on the surface of a high variety of materials.

20 The material is not particularly limited, and examples thereof include metals, ceramics, glasses, woods, stones, cements, concretes, and combinations of the above materials and laminates of the above materials. Specific examples to which the composition may be applied include housings, building materials; exterior of the buildings; interior of the buildings; sashes; glass; structural materials; exterior of machines and articles; dustproof covers and coatings; and films, sheets and seals.

In preparing the preferred embodiments of the present invention, various alternatives may be used to facilitate the objectives of the invention.

25 The following examples are presented to aid in an understanding of the present invention and are not intended to, and should not be construed to limit the invention in any way. All alternatives, modifications and equivalents which may become obvious to those of ordinary skill in the art upon a reading of the present disclosure are included within the spirit and scope of the invention.

30 The present invention will be described in more detail with reference to the following examples, though it is not limited to these examples only.

Example 1:

Three coating compositions according to the invention are prepared with the following components:

- photocatalytic titanium dioxide: PC 105 (30% TiO₂ by weight in water containing 1% of sodium hexametaphosphate) from Millennium Inorganic Chemicals,
- titanium dioxide pigments: Tiona595 from Millennium Inorganic Chemicals,
- calcium carbonate (filler): Omyacarb 5GU and Setacarb 850 OG from Omya UK,
- styrene acrylic copolymer latex (organic binder): Acronal 290D (50% by weight in dry water) from BASF,
- potassium silicate soln. (inorganic binder) Mol ratio>3.2: Betolin P35 from Woellner Silikat GmbH,
- tetrapotassium ethylenediamine tetracetic acid: Betolin A11 from Woellner Silikat GmbH,
- unsaturated fatty acid esters (antifoaming agent): Foamex K3 from Tego,
- hydroxyethylcellulose (thickening agent): Natrosol 250 MR from Hercules,
- heteropolysaccharid (thickening agent): Betolin V30 from Woellner Silikat GmbH,
- alkaline salt of special phosphonic acid: Sapetin D20 from Woellner Silikat GmbH, and
- quaternary alkyl ammonium compound: Quart 25 from Woellner Silikat GmbH.

These compounds were used with the following amounts.

25

Part A

% by weight

Water	18.4
Dispersant	0.2
Heteropolysaccharid	0.1
Hydroxyethyl cellulose	0.4
Viscosity stabilizer	0.4
Antifoaming agent	0.2

	Titanium dioxide pigments	7.9
	Calcium carbonate	28.1

Part B

5 Photocatalytic titanium dioxide ...
 Water as required

	Styrene acrylic (50%)	6.4
	Antifoaming agent	0.1
10	Texanol	0.3
	Inorganic binder	15.9
	Tetrapotassium ethylenediamine tetracetic acid	0.9

15 The paints are prepared in two parts.

For part A, the following are successively added to water, the alkaline salt of special phosphonic acid, thickening agents, the viscosity stabilizer and the antifoaming agent, the resulting mixture being mixed for 2 minutes and then added with T595 (TiO_2), followed by the calcium carbonate.

20 The components are mixed under high shear for 20 minutes.

The water is added to the photocatalytic titanium dioxide followed by the addition of the styrene acrylic copolymer latex, the antifoaming agent, the Texanol, the inorganic binder and tetrapotassium ethylenediamine tetracetic acid. The components are mixed for 5 minutes to form part B.

25 Part A is then mixed with part B under high shear mixing.

The so-obtained paints were tested for their efficiency. The tested paint was applied at a coverage of 770 g/m^2 on the surface of a substrate and the coated substrate submitted to the following tests.

30

I - Determining of NO/NO₂ removal by coatings

The NO_x that is used is NO at 450 ppm. After the initial measurement, the paint films were irradiated with 55 W/m² UV in the range of 300 to 400 nm range for 18 hours using a filtered Xenon light source. For the NO_x measurements, the samples are 5 irradiated with a UV fluorescent tube which emits 10 W/m² UV in the range of 300 to 400 nm.

1. Equipment

Nitrogen Oxides Analyser Model ML9841B

- 10 - ex Monitor Europe
UV Lamp Model VL-6LM 365 & 312 nanometer wavelength
- ex BDH
Air-tight sample chamber
3 channel gas mixer
15 - ex Brooks Instruments, Holland

2. Gases

NO Nitric Oxide

NO₂ Nitrogen Dioxide

- 20 NO_x Mixture NO & NO₂
Compressed air containing water vapour.

3. Method

The NO_x results were obtained by first washing the paint films for two hours to 25 remove the soluble potassium carbonate that is formed between the excess potassium hydroxide in the potassium silicate and carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

The method of measure is as follows:

1. Switch on Analyser and exhaust pump. Ensure exhaust pipe goes to atmosphere.
30 2. Allow to warm-up. Several internal components need to reach operating temperature before the analyser will begin operation. The process will, typically, take

60 mins from cold start and the message START-UP SEQUENCE ACTIVE will be displayed until operating conditions are met.

3. After warm-up turn on air and test gas supply to the gas mixer.
4. Calibrate the Analyser on the Test gas supply only, (turn the air channel to zero on the gas mixer), according to the manufacturer's instructions
5. After calibration turn OFF the test gas supply at the gas mixer.
6. Place test sample in the test chamber and seal chamber.
7. Turn on both air and test gas and adjust each until required level of test gas is reached, shown by the Analyser output. RECORD level.
10. Switch on the UV lamp when test gas levels are at desired point.
11. Allow the irradiated sample value to reach equilibrium, typically up to 5 mins.
12. RECORD the value shown on the analyser.
13. Report "Initial Value" i.e. no UV, "Final Value" after UV exposure for set period, Δ Value i.e. Initial- Final and %reduction i.e. Δ value / initial value \times 100.

The results are submitted in the following table.

II - Method for determination of coating photoactivity towards methylene

blue

20 Irradiating Titanium dioxide with Ultra Violet light results in the production of holes and electrons which are then capable of forming reactive species such peroxide, hydroperoxide and hydroxyl ions. These are then capable of oxidising organic molecules such as methylene blue to water, carbon dioxide and nitrogen containing species with the associated loss of colour. The level of photoactivity is monitored by measuring the L* (brightness) and b* value (blue/yellowness).

30 The method is most suitable for coatings that are wetted with water such as latex or emulsion paints. The porosity of the coatings will affect the amount of stain that the films will pick up but this is minimised by the addition of a thickener to the methylene blue solution. There may also be colour changes of the blue due to pH effects.

Preparation of Methylene Blue solution

The methylene blue is first dissolved in de-mineralised water to a concentration of 0.05% by weight. Using slow speed stirring the equivalent of 1% Natrasol MR[®] (Hydroxy Ethyl Cellulose) is then added. In order for the Natrosol to hydrate the pH is 5 raised to approximately 8.0 with dilute ammonia. This requires only a few drops. The solution is stirred for a further hour to completely hydrate the Natrosol.

Paint Film Staining

10 The paint film to be tested is over-coated with a film of the methylene blue solution by drawing down a film using a spiral wound rod. The test film has previously been prepared by applying a wet paint film to 30micron thick Melinex or Mylar sheet. The spiral wound rods are specified to give various film thicknesses but those giving 25 to 50 microns wet film are generally employed. The coatings are left to dry at 23 deg C. 50% RH overnight.

15

Measurement

A suitable sized area of the coatings is cut from the film and the L* and b* measurements are made using a Spectrophotometer. The paint films are then exposed to light from an Atlas Suntest machine set to give a light output of 550W/M² from 250 to 20 765nm. The paint films are re-measured at suitable intervals, typically 18 to 24 hours. The difference in L* and b* between the unexposed and exposed results is a measure of the photoactivity of the coating towards self-cleaning.

The data are provided in the following table.

25 III Method for Determination of durability

The durability of the coatings were assessed by preparing coatings on stainless steel panels and exposing them to simulated weathering conditions in a machine designed for that application. The amount of weight which the coating losses during the exposure 30 was a measure of its durability.

The stainless steel panels measure 75 by 150mm and were 0.75mm thick. The panels were weighed to 0.0001g before and after application of the paint film so that the weight of the coating can be calculated.

5 The panels can be coated by any convenient means including brushing, spraying, spinning or by spiral rod applicator. Only the surface to be exposed was coated. The dry film thickness was typically in the range of 20 to 50 microns.

The coatings were left to dry for 7 days before exposure in the Weatherometer.

10 The Weatherometer used for the exposures was a Ci65A made by Atlas Electric Devices, Chicago. The light source was a 6.5kW Xenon source emitting 0.5W/m² UV at 340nm. The black panel temperature was 63 degrees Celsius. Water spray was applied for 18 minutes out of every 120 minutes and there was no dark cycle.

The so-obtained values are submitted in the following table. They show that only about 60% by weight of the initial total weight of the painting according to the invention in efficiently have been lost after 760 hours exposure.

15

Table

Formulation	% NO removal	Washed film Stain test		Durability % weight lost after 760 hours exposure
		ΔL*	Δb*	
Comparative (0% Photocatalyst)	0	1.2	0.8	—
F ₁ (5% w/w Photocatalyst)*	6.3	1.4	1.2	65
F ₂ (10% w/w Photocatalyst)*	8.9	2.0	1.8	68

*The quantity is expressed in quantity of commercial product i.e. solvent and dry matter.

20

CLAIMS

1. A coating composition for the formation of an inorganic layer on the surface of a substrate, comprising at least

- an efficient amount of photocatalytic titanium dioxide particles,
- an opacifying agent,
- particles of an inorganic binder,
- an organic binder, and
- a solvent,

5 wherein said organic binder and photocatalytic titanium dioxide particles are present in a weight ratio, photocatalytic titanium dioxide/organic binder ranging from 0.1 to 6.

10 2. The coating composition according to claim 1, wherein the organic binder is selected in the group of copolymers styrene/butadiene and polymers and copolymers of acrylic esters.

15 3. The coating composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the organic binder is selected from the group consisting of polyvinylacrylic and copolymers of styrene/(meth)acrylic esters.

4. The coating composition according to anyone of claims 1 to 3, wherein the organic binder is present in a weight ratio of photocatalytic TiO₂ particles/organic binder ranging from 0.3 to 4.5 and in particular from 0.5 to 3.6.

20 5. The coating composition according to anyone of claims 1 to 4, wherein the photocatalytic titanium dioxide particles are anatase, rutile or mixtures thereof.

6. The coating composition according to anyone of claims 1 to 5, wherein the photocatalytic titanium dioxide particles include crystalline anatase-type titanium dioxide.

25 7. The coating composition according to claim 6, wherein the crystalline titanium dioxide particles exhibit a mean size of between 5 and 80 nm, in particular of between 5 and 50 nm, more particularly still of between 10 and 40 nm.

30 8. The coating composition according to anyone of claim 1 to 7, wherein the photocatalytic titanium dioxide particles are present in an amount ranging from 0.5 to 20%, and preferably from 1 to 15%, more specifically from 3 to 12% by weight of the total composition.

9. The coating composition according to anyone of claims 1 to 8, wherein the inorganic binder includes at least an amorphous metal oxide, selected from the group consisting of alkali silicates, alkali aluminates, alkali zirconates, alkali borates, alkali phosphates, alkali phosphonates and their mixtures.

5 10. The coating composition according to anyone of claims 1 to 9, wherein the inorganic binder contains at least one alkali metal silicate, in particular potassium silicate, sodium silicate, and/or lithium silicate.

10 11. The coating composition according to claim 10, wherein the concentration of the alkali metal silicate is 0.5 to 35% by weight, in particular 1 to 30% by weight, more particularly 2 to 25% by weight on a solid basis.

12. The coating composition according to anyone of claims 1 to 11, furthermore including non photocatalytic TiO₂ particles.

13. The coating composition according to anyone of claims 1 to 12 wherein the solvent is at least water.

15 14. The coating composition according to anyone of claims 1 to 13 as a silicate emulsion paint.

15. A process for providing a depolluting and/or soil cleaning coating on a substrate, comprising the steps of:

20 - applying a coating composition according to anyone of claims 1 to 14 onto a surface of the substrate to form a coating, and

- fixing the coating to obtain an inorganic layer on the surface of the substrate.

ABSTRACT

The present invention concerns a coating composition for the formation of an inorganic layer on the surface of a substrate, comprising at least

- an efficient amount of photocatalytic titanium dioxide particles,
- an opacifying agent,
- particles of an inorganic binder,
- an organic binder, and
- a solvent,

wherein said organic binder and photocatalytic titanium dioxide particles are present in a weight ratio, photocatalytic titanium dioxide/organic binder ranging from 0.1 to 6.